GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:243
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2016
IT Solutions in Health Care
Azad Shri Kirti (JHA)

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to adopt IT solutions in health care sector and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the details of schemes/programme under implementation to promote e-governance in health care along with funds made available for the purpose; and

(c) whether the Government also proposes to make it mandatory for medical practitioners to issue computerised prescriptions and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 243* FOR 2ND DECEMBER, 2016

a) Yes. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) has already proactively taken measures to adopt IT Solutions in existing health infrastructure in meeting the challenges of healthcare delivery especially to rural and remote areas to ensure continuum of care. Use of Information & Communication Technology in health i.e. eHealth is being promoted in the direction of "reaching services to citizens" and "citizen empowerment through information dissemination" to bring about significant improvements in the public healthcare delivery. The "Digital India" programme introduced is a major step in this direction under which following four main initiatives are being considered :
â€¢ Online medical consultation,
â€¢ Online medical records,
â€¢ Online medicine supply and
â€¢ Pan-India exchange of patient information.

b) I . Public health being a state subject, primary responsibility to provide healthcare services to citizens lies with State/UT governments. However, under National Health Mission (NHM) scheme, support is being provided to States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare system including IT solutions based on the requirements posed by them in Programme Implementation Plan (PIP). The details of key schemes/programmes under implementation is provided as follows :

i. Computerization & Hospital Management Information System (HMIS): Computerization of District / Sub-district hospitals & Community Health Centers (CHC) and to implement Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) for creation of Electronic Health Record is being undertaken in a phased manner. Purpose of this scheme is to strengthen online patient-centric interface, targeted impact of better delivery of services to patients and improvement in efficiency of processes at hospitals. Financial support has been provided to Chandigarh, Himanchal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu during the current year.

ii. Online Registration System (ORS): Online Registration System (ORS) is being implemented in various hospitals in States/UTs and Central Government Hospitals/Institutes to provide online registration, online appointment services to citizens' alongwith and online viewing of medical examination report on ORS portal by citizens. So far it has been implemented in 56 Hospitals.

iii. National Telemedicine Network: Under National Telemedicine Network scheme PHC/CHCs providing primary healthcare facilities & District/ Sub District hospitals providing secondary healthcare facilities are being interlinked with the tertiary health care facility, Medical Colleges and super specialty hospitals for providing Tele-Consultation & Tele-Follow-up services with specialist with the purpose of reaching out to rural & remote areas. Financial support has been provided to Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura during the current year.

II. Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP): A Central Sector Scheme to set up an 'Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)', to create the Electronic Health Records (EHRs) of patients in a centralized manner and to be made available nationwide online for medical history, with the help of Health Information Exchange has been approved in August 2016 and is being implemented. It would facilitate better health services to citizens; improve efficiency for healthcare services and health programmes by optimum utilisation of resources, availability of information / data, better affordability, better decision support system, fewer redundancies and medical errors.

III. Total fund made available for IT solutions/eGovernance purposes under Centrally Sponsored Scheme and central Scheme is as follows:

Scheme	Funds allocated for 2016-17 (in Rs Crore)
NHM (under Monitoring & Evaluation)	311.04
NHM (Innovation)	509.39
New initiatives under Central Scheme (Telemedicine)	40.00
Total	860.43

c) No. However, roll out of above mentioned IT Solutions would facilitate generation of computerized prescription or online prescription.